

National Aeronautics and Space Administration



**Headquarters**

Washington, DC 20546-0001

May 3, 2019

Office of Communications

Carolyn Kellogg  
MuckRock News  
DEPT MR 72321  
411A Highland Ave  
Somerville, MA 02144-2516  
[72321-62906098@requests.muckrock.com](mailto:72321-62906098@requests.muckrock.com)

FOIA: 19-HQ-F-00497

Dear Ms. Kellogg:

This is in response to your Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request dated April 29, 2019, and received at the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) Headquarters FOIA Office on April 30, 2019. Your request was assigned FOIA Case Number 19-HQ-F-00497 and was for:

A copy of all documents or files pertaining to Edward B. Hincks, Edward Hincks or Edward Blodget Hincks. Edward Hincks died April 28, 1993.

FOIA provides that "each agency, upon any request for records which (i) reasonably describes such records and (ii) is made in accordance with published rules stating the time, place, fees (if any), and procedures to be followed, shall make the records promptly available to any person. Records are reasonably described if the description "enable[s] a professional employee of the agency who was familiar with the subject area of the request to locate the record with a reasonable amount of effort." Courts have held that agencies are not required to conduct wide-ranging, unreasonably burdensome searches for records; therefore, "broad, sweeping requests lacking specificity are not permissible." See also *Exxon Mobil Corp. v. U.S. Dep't of Interior*, No. 09-6732, 2010 WL 2653353, at \*8 (E.D. La June 29, 2010) (finding requests for "any and all documents, "any documents," or "all documents" impermissibly broad").

Based on my review of the description of the records you are seeking, I find that your request does not adequately describe the records you are seeking. Please provide enough details about the specific records you seek so that the records can be located with a reasonable amount of effort. This includes information on the type of document, title,

subject area, date of creation if known, original source of the record, or other relevant details. It is important to be as specific as possible about what documents should be searched for and in what locations (i.e. names of the officials who you believe may have the information, the time frame of the requested records, etc). If you do not have details about specific records, please provide enough event-related information, such as the date and circumstance surrounding the event the record covers, to facilitate the conduct of an organized, non-random search for the requested records.

In accordance with 14 CFR §1206.301, if we do not hear from you within 20 working days from the date of this letter, we will consider that you are no longer interested in this request and we will close our file. You may submit a new request for the same information, however, you must provide the requested information as indicated above. Please review our FOIA regulation, which can be found at:

<https://www.nasa.gov/FOIA/guidance.html>

If you have any other questions, please feel free to contact me at [hq-foia@nasa.gov](mailto:hq-foia@nasa.gov) or 202-358-2462.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Josephine Sibley".

Josephine Sibley  
Headquarters  
FOIA Public Liaison Officer